United Nations A/65/170

General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 July 2010

Original: English

Sixty-fifth session
Item 124 (v) of the provisional agenda*
Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Letter dated 20 July 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization have signed the attached declaration at the tenth annual summit of the Organization, which was held in Tashkent on 10 and 11 June 2010 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 124 (v) of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) B. **Aitimova**

* A/65/150.

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Annex to the letter dated 20 July 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Declaration of the tenth meeting of the Council of the Heads of States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (Tashkent, 10-11 June 2010)

The tenth meeting of the Council of the Heads of States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization was held on 10 and 11 June 2010 in Tashkent. Following an exchange of views on important regional and international issues, the participants hereby declare the following:

1. Significant changes and fundamental transformations are taking place in today's dynamically developing world. In an increasingly multipolar world, States are becoming more interdependent and globalization is gaining momentum. This is having a major impact on the development of the global economy and on international relations.

- The States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (hereinafter "SCO" or "the Organization") are united in their assessment of the changes occurring in the world, which pose not only new threats and challenges, but also provide opportunities for progress towards a more just political and economic world order on the basis of the rule of international law and equal and mutually beneficial cooperation among all countries, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

- The SCO member States intend to strictly abide by the spirit of the SCO Charter and the provisions of the Treaty for Long-term Good-Neighbourly Relations, Friendship and Cooperation, and to implement the basic purposes and principles of the Organization.

2. In the years since its establishment, SCO has become an important factor in regional and international security and cooperation, and has proved to be an effective and transparent multilateral association. In its policies, the Organization will continue to exclude bloc, ideologized or confrontational approaches when addressing issues of international and regional development.

- The SCO member States are determined to pursue close and comprehensive cooperation within the Organization's framework in order to strengthen its role as a reliable guarantor of peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

3. In the light of developments in the Kyrgyz Republic, the member States reaffirm their principled position of mutual support for State sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

- The member States oppose interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States, or actions that may cause tensions in the region, and believe that all disagreements must be settled exclusively by political and diplomatic means through dialogue and negotiations.

- The SCO member States, stressing the importance for the entire region of stabilizing the political situation in Kyrgyzstan as swiftly as possible, have expressed their readiness to provide the Kyrgyz Republic with the necessary support and assistance to that end.

4. The SCO member States reaffirm that the United Nations plays a central role in the system of international relations as a unique and, in many respects, irreplaceable mechanism for multilateral cooperation.

- The member States intend to undertake further cooperation on the issue of reforming the United Nations and its Security Council.

- Since reform affects the interests of all Member States of the United Nations, open and comprehensive consultations should continue with a view drawing up an integrated draft embodying the broadest possible consensus.

5. New security threats and challenges have now risen to the forefront of the international agenda, which has increased the need to strengthen joint efforts to combat terrorism in all its manifestations and the importance of addressing international and regional security issues. The SCO member States will focus their efforts on implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and the provisions of the SCO Counter-Terrorism Convention. They will also focus on countering terrorist and extremist ideology by promoting an intercivilizational and intercultural dialogue.

6. The SCO member States emphasize that the Organization must remain focused on strengthening the coordination of joint activities to end the world financial and economic crisis and to reduce its negative consequences. In order to overcome the crisis, consistent efforts should be made to modernize national economies and to place them on an innovative path, all countries concerned should be equally involved in the international decision-making process, and cooperation at the global and regional levels should be strengthened towards those ends.

- The Organization will undertake efforts to create conditions conducive to trading and investment activities and the implementation of joint regional and interregional projects for the development of transport and communications infrastructure, with a view to increasing the economic competitiveness of member States.

7. In the modern world, it is crucial to build a system of international security based on respect for international law and compliance by States with their obligations. The establishment of such a system requires coherent and effective disarmament and non-proliferation measures.

- The SCO member States call for strict observance of the provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, including the provisions on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. They believe that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia, an important element for ensuring regional peace and security, could make a significant contribution towards strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and enhancing the level of regional and international security. An effective step in that direction would be the signature by the nuclear Powers of the relevant Protocol to the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty.

- The SCO member States welcome the signing in Prague on 8 April 2010 of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms.

- The member States stress that the uncontrolled deployment of global anti-ballistic missile defence systems, alongside the danger of weapons being deployed in outer space, could destabilize the international situation and lead to a proliferation of, and an increase in, missiles in various regions of the world.

8. The continuing escalation of the confrontation in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the terrorism, drug trafficking and transnational organized crime originating from that country remain a serious source of regional insecurity. The achievement of peace and stability in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is crucial for ensuring security that promotes sustainable socio-economic development in the entire region.

- The SCO member States reaffirm the leading role of the United Nations in coordinating the international community's efforts to achieve a solution to the situation in Afghanistan. They consider that the situation in Afghanistan cannot be settled by military methods alone and support advancing the negotiation process under United Nations auspices with the participation of Afghans themselves.

- The Organization, which supports the emergence of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan as a peaceful and stable country, believes in the importance of fully respecting the rich historical and ethno-demographic roots of the multi-ethnic people of Afghanistan and their traditional and religious values.

- The Organization supports the efforts of member States participating in projects for the economic reconstruction of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in cooperation with international institutions and other interested parties.

- The SCO member States call upon the international community to intensify its efforts to combat the drug threat from Afghanistan at all levels of the drug production and distribution chain. In this context, the summit meeting participants express their readiness to cooperate with other international and regional bodies and call upon the International Security Assistance Force to cooperate with the SCO member States on counter-narcotics efforts.

9. The SCO member States note that information security is closely linked to State sovereignty, national security, socio-economic stability and the interests of citizens. All countries are entitled to exercise control over the Internet, in accordance with their domestic situations and laws, while also expanding cooperation in a spirit of equality and mutual respect.

- Information technologies should be used for the purposes of peace, development, security and prosperity. The member States will continue to implement SCO instruments on security signed in this sphere and will undertake active efforts to ensure international information security.

10. The SCO member States note the increasing role played by the Organization in establishing a partnership network of multilateral entities in the Asia-Pacific region, in the context of strengthening peace, stability and sustainable development under the 2004 "Tashkent Initiative".

- The member States welcome the signature on 5 April 2010 in Tashkent of the Joint Declaration on SCO/United Nations Secretariat Cooperation, which establishes the main principles and areas for cooperation between the two organizations.

11. The approval by Heads of State of SCO rules of procedure and regulations on the procedure for admitting new members to the Organization represents as an important step in ensuring its further development, enhancing its authority and improving the legal framework for the work of its bodies.

- The member States advocate further intensifying cooperation with SCO observer States and dialogue partners and support strengthening practical cooperation with a view to incorporating their capacities, resources and markets in joint activities.

12. The sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War is being widely commemorated in SCO member States and around the world. The SCO member States emphasize that the lessons of that war reaffirm the importance, even today, that all States and political leaders must be committed to preventing the further tragedy of mass human casualties and that, through their joint efforts, they must work together to effectively counter threats and challenges to humanity. The SCO member States, whose peoples made a major contribution to the achievement of victory and suffered heavy losses during the Second World War, strongly condemn attempts to revive fascist ideology and to spread xenophobia, intolerance, extremism and terrorism for sinister political purposes.

- The Organization will continue upholding its commitment to peace, joint development and equal cooperation on the basis of mutual respect and tolerance, expanding cooperation and dialogue with the international community and making every effort to strengthen security, stability and well-being in the region and in the world as a whole, for the sake of harmony and shared prosperity.

- The SCO member States reaffirm their intention to hold commemorative events next year to mark the tenth anniversary of the Organization.